

PRESS RELEASE

World premier during 2020 ISPO: Sympatex Technologies and Schoeller Textil introduce the first circular functional jacket made from used textiles

rEvolution Hybrid, the latest product from the wear2wear™ European industry partnership, was presented to the public for the first time during today's press conference

Munich, January 28, 2020 – **rEvolution Hybrid** generated a lot of buzz on day three of the 2020 ISPO in Munich. The world's first upcycled functional jacket made from 30 percent recycled used textiles and 70 percent recycled PET bottles is the latest development from **wear2wear™**. The three-layer, high-performance jacket was developed and produced in collaboration with the European industry partnership, which meanwhile has grown to nine core members and three technology partners with the aim of rapidly closing the textile loop. This outdoor jacket offers not only maximum wearing comfort, but also EN 343-certified rain protection. Inspection of the sustainable and skin-friendly rEvolution Hybrid jacket is carried out by OEKO-TEX® und bluesign® in line with the stringent STANDARD 110. Two of the wear2wear™ founding members - Sympatex Technologies and Schoeller Textil – will have the jacket on display at their respective exhibit booths (hall 1, booth 300 / hall A1, booth 218).

rEvolution Hybrid: born from used textiles

The manufacturing process for the rEvolution Hybrid jacket begins by mechanically reducing used, 100 percent polyester (PES) textiles into fibers and converting them into granulate using an additional polymer melting process. The granulate is subsequently melted again and spun into new PES filament yarn. The yarns are then processed into textile polyester fabrics by Schoeller Textil AG and laminated together with the 100 percent recyclable polyetherester-based Sympatex membrane to create an unmixed, highly-functional and 100 percent waterproof functional textile that can be recycled again. The rEvolution Hybrid manufacturing process currently relies on 30 percent recycled used textiles. The remaining 70 percent is derived from PES yarns produced from recycled PET bottles. By using chemical upcycling processes, other substances such as PU adhesives can also be dissolved into a spinnable concentration so that they gradually vanish from the recycled textiles. The goal is to increase the percentage of recycled used textiles to 100 percent within the coming months.

Design2Recycle – the underlying concept of rEvolution Hybrid is unmixed materials

The Design2Recycle concept that was developed for the rEvolution Hybrid is based on a selection of low-seam cuts of materials that are as pure-grade as possible, in combination with

unmixed ingredients and environmentally-compatible equipment and dyes that do not affect the recycling process.

“The de facto proportion of polyester materials within the entire textile industry already exceeds 50 percent. If you limit this to synthetic materials – still two-thirds of our industry – it even increases to 80 percent. It should be obvious that we have to try make it a priority to manufacture apparel from pure polyester materials, so that once the clothing is used, it can be recycled using a process that is easy to implement and cost-effective,” explains Dr. Rüdiger Fox. “In other words, the hurdles involved in implementing a textile loop are much lower than generally assumed. The only thing holding back the creation of a waste-free synthetic clothing industry is the limits of our imagination – the collective will to make it happen as soon as possible,” says Fox.

End of life – rEvolution Hybrid returns to the wear2wear™ loop

Using an integrated RFID chip, all wear2wear™ products, including the rEvolution Hybrid, are traceable and transparent for the consumer and the process partner. TEXAID, the new wear2wear™ partner, can determine if a clothing article belongs to the concept by reading the RFID chip. And partners such as CWS ensure the collection of used clothing from the rental business and the protective work clothing segment. Once the clothing has been collected, sorted and separated, it then finds its way to wear2wear™ partner Carl Weiske, which re-initiates the upcycling process through a special combination of mechanical and chemical methods. Using a water-soluble PVA (polyvinyl alcohol) yarn in the Design2Recycle process, non-recyclable residues can be cost-effectively removed without impacting the material. The yarn, which withstands the daily wear and wash cycle typical for outdoor and protective work clothing, first begins to dissolve at 100°C. After the raw materials are reprocessed, new PES filament yarn is created, which is then processed into new upcycled polyester fabrics. The wear2wear™ loop is closed and a new high-quality, sustainable functional textile can be created.

“The wear2wear™ collaboration is not about waiting until there is an optimal solution. The partners are continually improving the state of the technology together and constantly enhancing their capabilities. As a result we are assuming responsibility for making the world of textiles more sustainable, day-by-day and step-by-step. Perhaps you could describe us as realistic idealists,” says Hendrikus van Es, head of BU Protection Textiles and member of the executive board at Schoeller Textil. “This is something that would nevertheless be impossible on our own. The only way to show how the entire textile loop works and ensure that clothing is responsibly manufactured and then recycled after it is used, is through partnerships and transparency,” adds van Es.



About Schoeller Textil AG

Schoeller Textil AG is a global textile company headquartered in Sevelen, Switzerland, that specializes in the development and manufacturing of functional fabrics and textile technologies for athletic, outdoor, fashion and workwear categories. Founded more than 150 years ago, Schoeller calls upon its vast history of experience working with the most advanced equipment in compliance with the world's toughest environmental system, bluesign®. In all areas of activity, quality and sustainability are the brand's primary concerns. The entire production chain is scrutinized – from the raw material to the finished product. For more information, please visit www.schoeller-textiles.com.

About Sympatex

Guaranteed Green – The Sympatex climate-neutral and recyclable membrane

As one of the worldwide leading producers, Sympatex® Technologies has been a synonym for high-tech functional materials in clothing, footwear, accessories and technical fields of application since 1986. Together with selected partners, Sympatex develops, produces and distributes membranes, laminates and functional textiles as well as finished products worldwide. The Sympatex membrane is highly breathable, 100% wind- and waterproof and regulates the climate. It is 100% recyclable, climate-neutral, bluesign® certified, and it received the 'Oeko-Tex-Standard 100' certificate. It is also PTFE-free and PFC-free. The technologies and procedures are based on the principles of ecological responsibility and sustainability with a special focus on the optimal carbon footprint. Sympatex is represented worldwide with sales offices and branches. www.sympatex.com

About wear2wear™

Sympatex is partner of wear2wear. In 2017, five skilled partners in Europe have teamed up for this innovative partnership and cover the entire recycling cycle. The sustainable wear2wear concept is a synonym for high-quality and responsible clothing. New functional textiles are produced out of textile fibres of used pieces of clothing in state-of-the-art production plants in Europe. Depending on the field of application, they meet high requirements for waterproofness, breathability, protection and comfort. These textiles can be completely recycled at the end of their life cycles for closing the textile loop. In the meantime the wear2wear consortium has grown to nine core members and three technology partners. Further information is available at www.wear2wear.org

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